

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Houston****Federal Tax ID: 92-0049711****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Houston - Records and Information Management Project

State Funding Requested: \$19,740**House District: Mat-Su Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Records and Information Management (RIM) project for the City of Houston and the citizens of Houston and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. This project will manage and preserve public records in compliance with National, State, and Local requirements

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$19,740
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$19,740)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**No prior funding***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

This Project Will Provide:

- Document Assessment
- Training, Policy and Procedures in conformance with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), State of Alaska (AS 40.21), and local record requirements (COH 2.44.080)
- Inventory of all cities' records and back-up on off-site server.
- Partnership with local student government and community volunteers.
- Ensure compliance with recordkeeping requirements contained in legal statutes and government regulations, avoiding costly fines and penalties.
- Reduce the risks and burdens of trial and civil litigation and government investigations
- Identify, protect, and preserve historical records of community and cultural significance.
- Reduce the time and effort required to reconstruct mission critical information in the event of disaster, theft, or other loss.

Justification:

The City has experienced flooding of the records room every spring.

The Clerk's office is understaffed to comply with all National, State, and local requirements.

The City of Houston does not have the funds for the project.

Project Timeline:

The Document Assessment would begin after funding the project will take 6 months.

Contact Name: 0
Contact Number: 0

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$19,740
Approved**

11:56 AM 5/13/2014

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Houston

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Sonya Dukes
Title: City Clerk
Address: PO Box 940027
Houston, Alaska 99694
Phone Number: (907)892-6869
Email: sdukes@houston-ak.gov

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

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38
39
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41
42
43

**HOUSTON, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 13-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE FY 2015
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND LISTING ITS PRIORITIES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Houston is planning for FY 2015 capital improvements as part of its 5 year capital improvement program; and

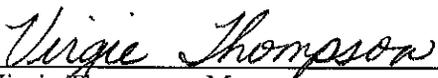
WHEREAS, the City seeks support from the State of Alaska Legislature to meet its capital improvement needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Houston City Council that the following projects are hereby identified as priorities for Fiscal Year 2015.

Substandard Road Upgrades	\$ 510,000.00	<u>\$ 1,437,485.00</u>
Emergency services equipment	\$ 140,000.00	
Community/ Municipal Building with leased space Phase 1	\$ 250,000.00	
Fire Station 9-2 and related equipment	\$1,750,000.00	<u>\$ 3,625,000.00</u>
Meadowview Roads Upgrade Phase 1	\$ 684,200.00	
Fire Engine for Station 9-2	\$ 650,000.00	
Records and Information Management Project	\$ 19,740.00	
Road Equipment	\$ 60,000.00	
Flood Impact Assessment Study	\$ 85,000.00	

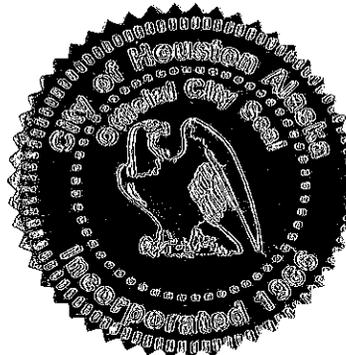
PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Houston City Council this 9 day of January 2014.

THE CITY OF HOUSTON, ALASKA


Virgie Thompson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sonya Dukes, City Clerk





Published for the Mat-Su Valley and Gary Lewis and Wasilla.

Fireworks rescheduled for Saturday

Due to high winds, the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce and city of Wasilla New Year's Eve fireworks display scheduled for Dec. 31 were rescheduled. The fireworks will now begin at 8 p.m., Jan. 4 at Wonderland Park in Wasilla.

Apply now for 2014 PFD

The application period has opened for eligible Alaskans to apply to receive the 2014 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. Apply online at 1.usa.gov/1cpR3m2.

Inside



Wasilla splits at tourney

Warrior girls win, boys lose on first day of Classic.

SPORTS, PAGE 10

Weather

HIGH: 26
LOW: 19

Mostly cloudy with flurries.

Full forecast, PAGE A2

Index

- Pet Tails2
- Faith5
- Opinion6
- Obituaries8
- Police Beat8
- Arts & Leisure9
- Sports10
- Outdoors10
- Comics12
- Classifieds13

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STAYING AFLOAT



ROBERT DeBERRY/Frontiersman

Volunteer Doris Anderson and Houston City Clerk Sonya Dukes hold a hand-written book of meeting minutes dated from 1966 to 1969 that was damaged when the records room at Houston City Hall was flooded in September 2012.

FOR THE RECORD

Houston seeks help saving historic city documents

BY ANDREW WELLNER
Frontiersman.com

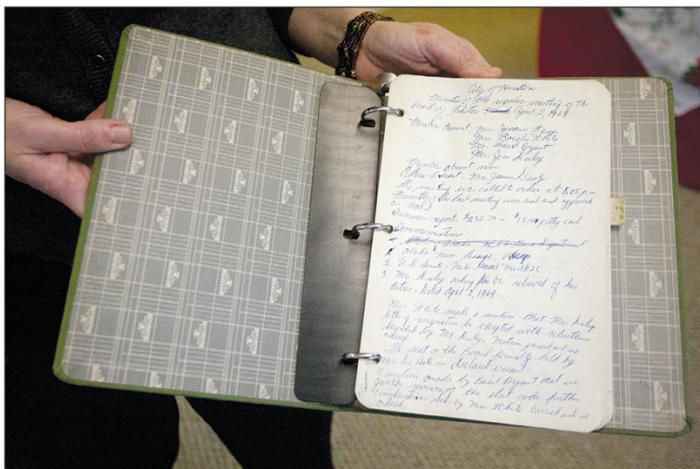
HOUSTON — Sonya Dukes dashes back to her office, while her volunteer helper flips through pages of documents in the city council chambers.

Dukes quickly returns with a water-damaged green binder, which she opens to reveal a piece of paper lined with neat handwriting. It's ordinance No. 2 from the city of Houston, written nearly five decades ago.

"This is what we're trying to protect," she said, before joking that she's "still looking for ordinance 1."

Founded in 1966, Houston is actually older than the city of Wasilla, which was incorporated in 1974. Dukes said the binder was wedged in amidst records from the city's entire 47-year history. They are kept in 300 boxes in a basement room that has flooded twice in Dukes' tenure. Protecting those records is part of her job.

But it's not an easy task. Even with help from a group of high school kids immediately after the flood and the ongoing aid of her volunteer, Doris Anderson, Dukes said she still needs to find the funding to bring in



ROBERT DeBERRY/Frontiersman

One of the hand-written pages from a book of Houston City Council minutes dating back to April 1966.

a professional service to scan documents and store those scanned copies off-site.

And it's not just something she does out of a sense of duty to the city's history, though, like most clerks, she does feel that duty.

"Legally, every city's supposed to have a records retention schedule, which we do now, but it's the first one ever," Dukes said.

But records retention occupies a weird spot. It's not a high priority like roads and public safety. It can be hard to find the money to pay for it.

And it's hard in a place like Houston where budgets are tiny. A \$19,000 appropriation like the one the city sought for the retention program is a drop in the bucket to a

See RECORDS, Page 8

2 nabbed after 2nd ATM heist

BY ANDREW WELLNER
Frontiersman.com

PALMER — For the second time in two weeks, an automated teller machine has been stolen from a local business.

This time, however, the thieves were caught within 24 hours.

According to a sworn statement Alaska State Trooper Timothy Cronin filed in court, the case came to light when a burglar alarm went off at Alaska Fast Cash pawnshop. The shop faces the Palmer-Wasilla Highway next door to the go-kart track at the highway's intersection with Luke Street.

Soon after the burglar alarm went off, troopers found a white 2000 Ford Expedition that was suspected to have been involved in the burglary. It was stuck in a snowbank on Country Fair Drive. The vehicle was registered to their first suspect, Almando Abarca.

Troopers tracked Abarca down to his house, Cronin writes, where he quickly agreed to lay the whole story out for them.

"Three or four days prior, he and Luc Mackie had talked about different ways they could get money. Luc indicated there was a way that they could get \$10,000 to \$15,000 apiece and to get tools ready," Cronin writes. "Luc told Almando that he would contact him when it was time to get the money."

On New Year's Eve, Mackie put in a call to Abarca. Abarca borrowed gas money from his sister and picked Mackie up in the Expedition.

"Both Almando and Luc were dressed in black clothing and had ski masks covering their face(s). Almando later indicated that he also put tape on the front and rear license plate to conceal the front and back license plates," Cronin writes.

It wasn't until they were on the road near the store that Mackie filled Abarca in on the plan to steal the ATM. Abarca drove back and forth in front of the store checking

See ATM, Page 3

OUR NEIGHBORS

'Rusty' Dow, Alaska's dean of women war workers

Editor's Note: Project 49 is a monthly series from the University of Alaska Anchorage, highlighting characters and events from Alaska history that have been preserved in the university's archives. The UAA/APU Consortium Library Archives and Special Collections are open to the public. This is the first of a two-part series on Benzie Ola "Rusty" Scott. See Sunday's Frontiersman for the second part of this story.

BY JAMIE GONZALES
Project 49

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Two years later, Texas-born trucker Benzie Ola "Rusty" Scott packed up her two-ton Chevy for a move from California to Alaska that would kick off her own chain of firsts: first woman truck driver in the territory, first woman to drive trucks for Alaska's Fort Richardson, first woman to drive the newly constructed Alaska Highway, first woman to drive through the Whittier tunnel.

Letters from her brother, Lanna Zoell Scott, a Matanuska Colonist (Scott Road in Palmer runs through his original homestead), had convinced her there was fresh opportunity in Alaska for a middle-aged vegetable and dairy hauler with empty pockets and a strong back. And indeed, she got right to work as a freelance trucker upon her arrival, transporting laundry, mail and occasionally



Above: Alaska's first woman truck driver, Benzie Ola 'Rusty' Scott. Rusty Dow papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.



Left: Newspaper clippings from Rusty's papers, including this one from September 1943, tracked her achievements in Alaska.

See DOW, Page 3

POLICE BEAT

All information reported in the Police Beat is obtained from police departments' press releases. Defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

PALMER POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCIDENTS

Dec. 16, North Star Animal Hospital parking lot: A 34-year-old Palmer man reported someone crashed into his vehicle earlier in the evening.

Dec. 19, Bailey St. and Cottonwood Ave.: Jason Theis, 24, Palmer, and Stacy Underwood, 33, Wasilla, were in a wreck. No injuries.

Dec. 20: A 57-year-old Wasilla woman reported her vehicle was the victim of a hit-and-run crash.

Dec. 23: Douglas A. Chadwick, 20, Palmer, lost control of his vehicle and rolled it onto its side due to icy roads. No injuries.

WARRANTS

Dec. 17, Hatcher St.: Miranda Craig, 23, Palmer, and Andrew Bates, 27, Wasilla, were arrested on warrants for violating probation. Bail: \$5,000 each.

Dec. 20: Trevor D. Arts, 20, Palmer, was arrested on a \$200 warrant for violating probation on an MCA charge.

Dec. 24: Michael P. Thompson, 20, Palmer, was arrested on a \$500 warrant for FTA in court on an assault charge.

DWLS

Dec. 17: Andrew Scott Bates, 27, Wasilla, was arrested for DWLS, jailed and released on his own recognizance.

Dec. 20: Harley Davidson Hurn, 39, Willow, was arrested for DWLS.

ANIMAL BITE

Dec. 19: An 11-year-old Palmer boy was bitten by the family pet. The animal was quarantined for 10 days.

DUI

Dec. 19: Bruce Marshall, 44, Anchorage, was arrested for DUI. Bail: \$5,000 with a CATPC.

Dec/ 24: Clarice McConkey, 28, Copper Center, was arrested for DUI. Bail: \$500.

THEFT

Dec. 21: A 41-year-old Palmer woman reported property stolen from her home.

Dec. 25: A 23-year-old Palmer man reported an Xbox, a Toshiba hard drive and a Cannon digital camera stolen from his home.

MORE ONLINE

Visit Frontiersman.com for more local Police Beat.

ABBREVIATIONS

- CATPC: court-appointed third party custodian
- DUI: driving under the influence
- DV: domestic violence
- DVPOV: domestic violence protective order violation
- DWLSR: driving with a cancelled, suspended or revoked license
- FTA: failure to appear
- MCA: minor consuming alcohol
- MICS: misconduct involving a controlled substance
- MIW: misconduct involving weapons
- MOCA: minor operating a vehicle after consuming alcohol
- NVOL: no valid operator's license
- PTRP: petition to revoke probation
- VCR: violating conditions of release

ARREST

Continued from Page 3

thing, than I will, and you're not going to like it," Havens writes.

Havens asked for clarification. Rasmussen became angry, growing "increasingly hostile," according to Havens' statement.

"Rasmussen was in a fighting stance with his fist balled, was yelling and making quick movements," Havens writes.

When Rasmussen went to pull something out of his pocket, Havens pushed him in the chest and grabbed for his hands.

"Rasmussen raised his right hand, swung, and with full force punched me in the left eye," Havens writes.

With Sadloske's help, Havens continued trying to get control of Rasmussen, who kept throwing punches. Havens writes that he punched back, hitting Rasmussen in the face and body. Eventually Rasmussen fell on the bed.

"He fell onto the bed and kicked at myself and Trooper Sadloske. Trooper Sadloske was kicked by Rasmussen on

the left side of his face. Rasmussen was wearing large snow boots at the time," Havens writes.

A third trooper came into the room at this point, Trooper Pete Steen, who Tasered Rasmussen in his left thigh and lower back for two seconds.

"Rasmussen continued to struggle for several more seconds prior to being placed in handcuffs," Havens writes.

During the struggle, Rasmussen started bleeding from his nose. He spit blood on Havens, soiling his hands and uniform.

When it was all said and done, Sadloske didn't have any marks on his face, but said that spot where he'd been kicked hurt. Havens, meanwhile, had a bleeding scratch on his eyelid, a swollen, bruised cheek, blurred vision and an eye contusion.

Rasmussen was jailed at the Mat-Su Pre-Trial Facility charged with assault, harassment — for spitting blood on Havens — and resisting arrest.

His bail was set at \$50,000. As of Thursday afternoon he'd made bail and been released.

Contact Andrew Wellner at 352-2270 or andrew.wellner@frontiersman.com.

FROM THE BLOTTER

Shoplifter allegedly tried to boost more than \$3K

frontiersman.com

WASILLA — What was apparently planned to be a very merry, very illicit Christmas landed a Wasilla man in jail on felony theft charges Dec. 23.

According to a sworn statement Wasilla police sergeant Chris Watchus filed in the case against John E. Stewart, 49, police were summoned to Wal-Mart at 4:01 p.m.

There, Watchus met Stewart, who declined to answer any questions. But store employees filled him in on what happened. Stewart had apparently filled his cart with items from the electronics department.

"Stewart then went to where the wrapping paper is and placed several rolls in the cart," Watchus writes.

After he was caught rolling the cart out the door, store employees rang up the ill-gotten merchandise: Twenty-four PlayStation games, two 32-inch televisions, a men's shaver and various Nintendo Wii controllers.

"The total amount of the items in the cart came to \$3,423.32," Watchus writes.

Theft of anything over \$500 is a felony with stricter penalties than the misdemeanor theft used to charge people who stole less than that amount.

Stewart has since made bail and been released from jail.

Burglars cause damage

PALMER — Alaska State Troopers say a burglary on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway last week caused damage to a local business but didn't appear to have involved any theft.

According to an AST press release, officers were called at 2 a.m. to Body Piercings Unlimited and Tattoo on the highway near the Equestrian Acres subdivision.

"A person or persons caused more than \$750 in damage when they forced entry into the building; however, nothing was taken," troopers report.

They ask anyone with information in the case to call troopers at 745-2131 or Mat-Su Crime Stoppers at 745-3333.

Man busted for myriad reasons

MEADOW LAKES — Alaska State Troopers just wanted to pull him over for crossing over the centerline, but they wound up finding at least eight reasons to arrest a Wasilla man Tuesday.

According to a sworn statement AST Sgt. Dave Herrell filed in the case against Richard Lee Walker, 36, the traffic stop happened at midnight Tuesday morning at Mile 49, Parks Highway.

The driver, later identified as Walker, pulled into the parking lot of the Holiday station there.

"I attempted to identify the driver of the vehicle, who informed me he didn't have to tell me his name. I smelled an odor of fresh cultivating marijuana coming from the interior of the vehicle," Herrell writes.

Eventually Walker gave his name as Jerome Walker, but apparently it's a name he's used before as Herrell, with help from police dispatchers looking at Walker's records, was able to clear that up pretty quickly.

Another bit of attempted deception, according to Herrell, was that when asked, Walker said he didn't have a gun in the car but there was one in the pocket of the driver's door.

The fake name and the lie about the gun are two reasons to arrest Walker. A third — Walker is a felon barred from possessing guns. A fourth reason was that Walker was driving on a revoked license.

Reasons five through eight were all warrants out for Walker's arrest, nearly all of them on either drugs or revoked license charges, save for a no-bail Anchorage warrant with an original charge of assault.

As of Thursday afternoon he was still incarcerated.

RECORDS

Continued from Page 1

place like the Mat-Su Borough, but it's a huge chunk of Houston's budget. On the other hand, a \$19,000 appropriation might even run the risk of going overlooked and left out of something like the state capital budget, which deals with appropriations usually in the \$1 million-and-up range.

"Small communities — we're stuck in the middle," she said.

But she said she has the support of her city council, which put that \$19,000 request at the top of its list of items sought in the next state budget.

As for Anderson, she said she's a relatively recent retiree. She had been an accountant for NANA.

"When I first retired I thought it would be fun not doing anything. I was totally wrong," she said.

Once she'd driven herself sufficiently stir crazy in the home on the Little Sustina River she shares with her husband, she started looking for volunteer opportunities. That led her to the city.

"I jumped all over that," Dukes said.

For Anderson, she said it's been fun getting to know the history of the city she lives in

through its documents.

She said she loves the idea that she can give back to the local community. The same floods a little over a year ago that inundated the records room surrounded her home.

"The community would stop by to see if we were OK," she said.

Dukes said she remembers those floods as well.

"Public works had said, 'hey, the records room flooded,' and I said, 'ha ha, that's so funny,'" Dukes recalls.

A lot of the boxes were stored on the floor and had to be gone through page-by-page and dried out. The next step is to see what should be kept and what doesn't. That's what Anderson is up to. Dukes said they found a whole box full of outgoing faxes that all went in the trash. But they still had to sift through each page, making sure records that need to be retained weren't stuffed in between.

Dukes said that in talking to other clerks from other communities, remote communities with fewer resources, less space and more history and thus more records to retain, she realizes she's lucky.

But maybe if she gets the word out about how tough it is for her other communities can also look for help.

"I want the awareness out there that there is a big need in all communities," she said.

OBITUARY

ELWANDA RHAEDEAN PHILLIPS SWEENEY FISH

Elwanda Rhaeadean Phillips Sweeney Fish, daughter of the late William

Edgar Phillips and Edyth Alice Shelley Phillips, was born Aug. 11, 1933, in Love, Ark.

She departed this life Nov. 16, 2013, at her home in Franklin, Ark., at the age of 80 years, three months and five days.

She spent her life as a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, homemaker and friend.

She brought so much joy to our lives and was a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

She will be greatly missed, but we find peace in knowing that she is no longer in pain and will be rejoicing and visiting with all of her other loved ones in heaven.

During her working years, she owned and operated several restaurants in Arkansas and Alaska. She also cooked at Providence Alaska Medical Center, Mary Conrad Center and

the Wasilla Senior Center. Elwanda was a great cook and made the best pies that you may have ever eaten. She was a member of the American Legion Post 35 Auxiliary and enjoyed her lunch dates with "The Geritol Gypsies."

She was preceded in death by four husbands: Farrell Batterton, Grover Cooper, Joseph Sweeney and Donald Fish.

Surviving are her three sons and three daughters-in-law, Dean and Marilyn Batterton of Franklin, Ark., Mike and Ginger Sweeney of Palmer, and Kevin and Vonnie Sweeney of Palmer; three daughters and sons-in-law, Tammy



Granny.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four husbands; four brothers; five sisters; son, Mark Batterton; two grandchildren, Tina Johnson and Chris Pierson; great-grandson, Cameron Sharp; and son-in-law, Maurice Johnson.

A memorial service was Nov. 27, 2013, at Howard Memorial Funeral Chapel in Melbourne, Ark. Honorary Pallbearers were Kohn Batterton, Lester Gross, Bruce Phillips, William Sharp, Wendell Collins, Bill Barnes, Steve Billingsley and Jack Stevens.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Wasilla.

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Some claim that viewing is not necessary

For most, an unexpected death is a shock. Visiting that loved one can help aid with healing for many. Although it may be painful for some, seeing the person helps us to accept what has happened. Viewing is an expression of love.



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Engine 557 raffle winners announced

Frontiersman.com

Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry and the Engine 557 Restoration Company has announced the winners of its raffle, which were drawn at 5:57 p.m., New Year's Eve.

J.E. Morris of Anchorage, who purchased lucky ticket No. 7, won first prize. He will receive a day trip for 16 aboard the luxurious Denali business car to Seward and back.

Soloy Helicopter of Wasilla won second-place and receives six round-trip tickets to Fairbanks on the Alaska Railroad and two rooms at the Chena Hot Springs Resort.

Gloria McAlister of Valdez won third prize, an Alaska Railroad 2014 Print by artist Ray Gamradt. Raffle organizers say selling 150, \$100 tickets in just two months wouldn't have been possible without the support of large corporate sponsors that purchased books of 10 tickets. Thanks go to Greatland Welding and Machine, Unique Machine and staff at Lynden Logistics, and to the Alaska Railroad Corp. and Chena Hot Springs Resort for donating prizes.

Apply now for 'Individual Artist Awards' program

Frontiersman.com

Applications for Rasmuson Foundation's annual Individual Artist Awards grants program will be accepted through 11:59 p.m., March 1. These grant awards go directly to artists to support the development of new work or for activities that advance creative development.

Individual Artist Awards provide support Alaska artists in 10 artistic disciplines at all stages of their careers and creative development.

Artistic disciplines are: choreography, crafts, folk and traditional arts, literary arts/scriptworks, media arts, multidiscipline/new genre, music composition, performance art, presentation/interpretation and visual arts.

Awards are made in three categories — project awards, artist fellowship awards and the Distinguished Artist Award. Project awards (\$7,500) are for artists with short-term projects needs. Fellowships (\$18,000) are awarded to mid-career and mature artists to advance their careers. The Distinguished Artist award (\$40,000) recognizes creative excellence and superior accomplishments. Artists may apply for only one type of award. Anyone may nominate a candidate for the Distinguished Artist Award.

Rasmuson Foundation created the Individual Artist Awards to encourage the growth of serious artists, helping them continue to create, experiment and contribute art to Alaska communities. In 2013, Rasmuson Foundation awarded \$400,000 to 35 artists statewide. Since 2004, the Individual Artist Awards program has awarded 302 grants totaling \$2.3 million directly to Alaska artists.

Fellowship awards rotate. For 2014, fellowships will only be awarded in media arts, multidiscipline/new genre, music composition, presentation/interpretation and visual arts.

Applications filed through the Rasmuson Foundation website or sent by mail are due by March 1. Applications delivered to the office must be received by 5 p.m., Feb. 28.

Eligible applicants are Alaska residents of two or more years who have not won an Individual Artist Award in the past three years and are 18 years or older.

For more information or to request an application, call (907) 297-2700 or (877) 366-2700.

Public invited to Palmer Historical Society meeting Jan. 15

Frontiersman.com

PALMER — The public is invited to join the Palmer Historical Society at 7 p.m., Jan. 15 at the Palmer Library to hear a presentation from Dan Renshaw about the origins of the Alaska Railroad.

Renshaw will share information about the developments, dramatic events and friendships broken that changed state history.

He is the owner of Gold Cord Mine, just above Independence Mine, and is a second-generation miner in Hatcher Pass who has amazing amounts of

knowledge on mountains, weather, mines in the area and Alaska History.

Renshaw said he doesn't usually like to play "what if," but just for this discussion, think about what if:

- Incumbent President William Howard Taff had been elected Nov. 5, 1912, instead of Woodrow Wilson?
- Would the Alaska Railroad be the Copper River and Northwestern Railway from Cordova to Fairbanks?
- Would Anchorage exist?
- If there wasn't an Anchorage, would there be a Palmer?

Bel Canto Alaska seeks amateur singers

Frontiersman.com

Bel Canto Alaska is proud to sponsor its fourth anniversary Singing Competition, June 7 at the University of Anchorage Alaska Fine Arts Building Recital Hall in Anchorage.

Applicants must be Alaska residents age 25 or older and be non-professional singers. Complete guidelines and application are available at belcantoalaska.org, by email at belcanto@belcantoalaska.org or call (907) 240-1730.

Cast prizes include \$850 for first place, \$650 for second place and \$450 for third.

Winners of the contest will appear in the evening show "Bel Canto on the Big Screen!" Application deadline is May 7.

For more information, visit belcantoalaska.org.



Courtesy Christy Pinkerton

The Colony High School marching band The Northern Sound perform during Bandfest. The band executed its entire field performance, which earned it the first standing ovation in event history.

MAKING MEMORIES

CHS band marches into Tournament of Roses Parade history

Editor's note: Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman employee Christy Pinkerton's son, Jared, is one of the students who represented Alaska at the 2014 Tournament of Roses Parade. Beginning when the band arrived in California Dec. 27, Pinkerton has shared daily updates and photos on the Frontiersman's Facebook page so the community can share in this historic moment. Here are highlights from the band's first five days, including links to its Bandfest and parade performances.

BY CHRISTY PINKERTON
Frontiersman.com

Tournament of Roses Parade Day 1:

Greetings from Los Angeles, Calif.! The CHS marching band arrived safely late last night. Today was a fun day. We started off at Seal Beach in La Jolla, where we were greeted by seals on the beach — imagine that! We found ourselves on the other side of the beach where most of us just waded in the water, but a certain few ended up fully submerged. It was great to feel the sand on our feet instead of snow. From there we headed to the San Diego Zoo. They had it all and we saw it all — well, almost all. Lions, tigers, giraffes, monkeys, reptiles, rhinoceroses and ... well, you get the picture. Our last stop was dinner at the Hard Rock Café, where the kids seemed to be right at home with all the music memorabilia. The service was great and the food delicious. Tomorrow promises more fun, but it's also a practice day.

Tournament of Roses Parade Day 2:

We began our day at the Santa Monica Pier, where we enjoyed the shops and some rides, but the big star was the beach. Mind you, we know it is December, but leave it to the kids from Alaska to be swimming in the ocean. Many of them laid out in the warm sun



Courtesy Christy Pinkerton

Members of the Colony High School marching band The Northern Sound show off their special base drum heads as they march in a parade at Disneyland during their trip to the Tournament of Roses Parade.

and several were caught building sand castles.

For lunch, we headed to the farmers market where you could get absolutely any kind of cuisine you could imagine, although I saw many teenagers with the old standby pizza.

Enough playing, now it was time to work. Our motor coaches took us to Irvine High School, where the band practiced outside for four hours! This was the first time several of the members were able to practice with their rented instruments. We rented all the drums and all of the large instruments such as tubas and sousaphones.

Tomorrow is Bandfest and float viewing ... stay tuned.

Tournament of Roses Parade Day 3:

It was a very early morning for the band (members) as they had to be on the bus in full uniform with instruments ready to go at 7 a.m. Today was Bandfest! All the bands participating in the Rose Parade performed their field routine and did a pass & review before the president of the Tournament of Roses, royal court queen and princesses and other dignitaries. The emcee did a fabulous job

getting the crowd excited about the first band from Alaska. The band's performance was excellent and the crowd could tell who all their parents were. We represented loud and proud. During their pass & review our kids received a standing ovation! Let's just say there were more than a few happy tears shed.

Next stop was to the Rose Bowl football stadium to get our official group photograph and to view the floats as they were putting the finishing touches on them. Quite fascinating is all I can say. One float, "A Bed of Roses," told us they had over 12,500 roses on their float.

Our next stop was supposed to be rehearsal, but the bus I was in broke down on the freeway — and I mean very busy, eight-lane freeway. Fortunately, we are traveling in two motor coaches so the kids all doubled up and some sat on the floor while we transferred to their bus.

One bus continued on to rehearsal while we waited at McDonald's for about 1 1/2 hours for a new bus.

The kids and directors are working hard. They are tired, sore and hot, but they are pushing through and getting the job done. I am so incredibly proud of all of them!

Tomorrow ... Disneyland performance!

Tournament of Roses Parade Day 4:

This will be short and sweet as tomorrow is the big day and parents must be on the bus at 4:15 a.m. Kids don't have to be there until 6:40 a.m.

A follow up from yesterday; director Jamin Burton was told at a meeting this morning that for the first time in the history of Bandfest a band received a full standing ovation — that band was CHS! I just thought it was a kind gesture. I had no idea it was much more meaningful. Way to go KNIGHTS!

Today the band marched in the Disneyland Parade! It was awesome. They also spent the afternoon in the recording studio where they recorded two songs from "Tangled" and one from "Toy Story 3," then got to watch the clips with their recorded music. What a great experience.

Don't forget to watch the Tournament of Roses Parade. It starts at 7 a.m., Alaska time. We are No. 86 out of 91 entries, so press the record button and watch at your leisure.

Tournament of Roses Parade Day 5:

Wow, just wow, what an incredible day. So much has happened today it will take me quite a bit to put it all into words. I have been up since 3:45 a.m. and it is now 10 p.m. I will get my thoughts together and get information on the parade ready for tomorrow night. In the meantime, please enjoy the video from Bandfest. This is their entire field performance including Pass & Review.

See the Bandfest performance online at bit.ly/1d3mB7F.

See the Rose Parade performance online at bit.ly/19P4zTG.

ARTS & LEISURE BRIEFS

Fireworks rescheduled for Saturday

Due to high winds, the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce and city of Wasilla New Years Eve fireworks display scheduled for Dec. 31 had to be rescheduled.

The fireworks will now begin at 8 p.m., Jan. 4 at Wonderland Park in Wasilla.

Palmer Arts Council's annual meeting is Saturday

The 2014 Palmer Arts Council's annual meeting is from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Jan. 4 at Rusty's Restaurant, 320 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer. The event will feature artwork by Gail Moses and Mat-Su Borough School District Superintendent, Deena Paramo is the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$50 and are available online at conta.cc/K04vau.

KUAC seeks entries for poster contest

Radio station KUAC is accepting entries for its 2014 poster. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Jan. 5. Artists must live in Alaska and may enter up to three pieces of art. A community committee will select the artwork for the 2014 poster, which will be introduced during KUAC's March 2014 public television fundraiser. Visit kuac.org for more information.

'The Dixie Swim Club' runs Jan. 10-26

Valley Performing Arts presents "The Dixie Swim Club" Jan. 10 to 26, 2014, on stage at the Fred and Sara Machetanz Theatre, 251 W. Swanson Ave., Wasilla. For tickets, call 373-0195, visit valleyperformingarts.org or stop by the office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

'Gathering of Remembrance' is scheduled for Jan. 12

Join the Valley Hospice Resources and Mat-Su Regional Home Health and Hospice at their annual "Gathering of Remembrance" as they read the names and remember the lives of our loved ones at 2 p.m., Jan. 12, 2014, at the Palmer Train Depot.

'Snow Ball' is Jan. 31

The vice president Colony High School's student government is organizing its second annual Snow Ball Cotillion Dance from 8 to 11 p.m., Jan. 31, 2014, at the Palmer Train Depot. The dance is open to all Valley high school juniors and seniors and is a fundraiser for The Children's Place.

Tickets are \$20 at the door or \$15 in advance at The Children's Place, 530 Talkeetna St., Wasilla.